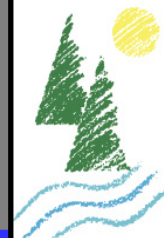


# ***Family Forest Fish Passage Program***



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

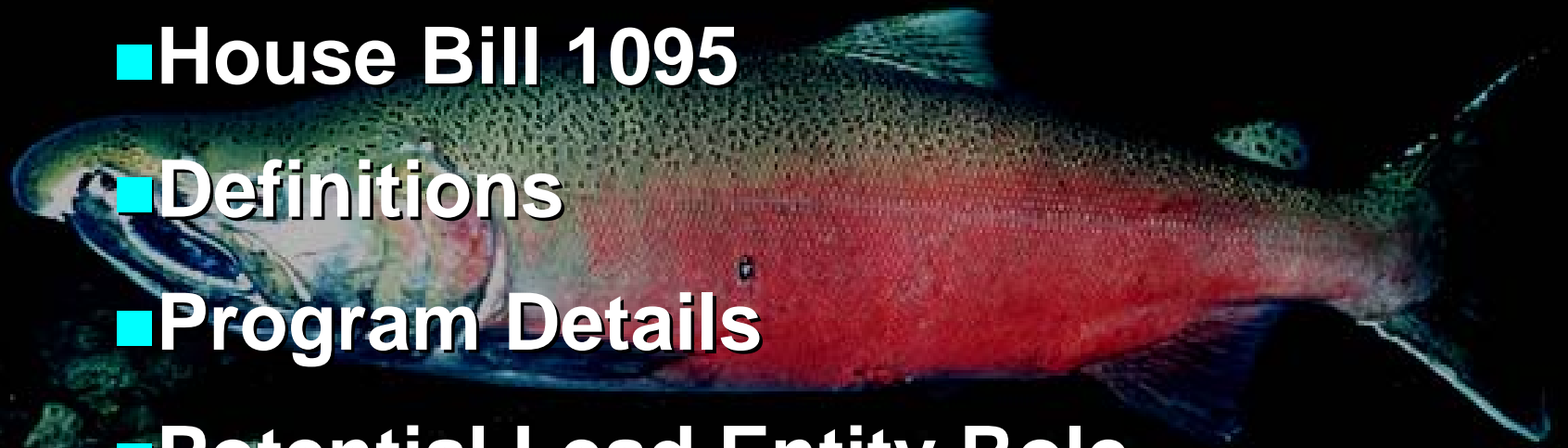


*Interagency Committee for*  
**OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**SALMON RECOVERY  
FUNDING BOARD**

# What will be covered:

- Forests and Fish Overview
- House Bill 1095
- Definitions
- Program Details
- Potential Lead Entity Role



# Forests and Fish Overview

- In 2001 "Forests and Fish Rules" were enacted that required enhanced protection for aquatic resources and fish habitat.
- The rules require forest landowners to submit **RMAPs** identifying potential adverse impacts to water quality or salmon habitat.

# RMAP Goals

- Reduce or eliminate sediment entering fish-bearing waters.
- Improve fish access to habitat by removing fish blockages and upgrading culverts on forest lands by 2016.

# The RMAP Problem

- Potential hardship for Washington's family forest landowners.
- Under financial strain, some family forest landowners may convert their lands to non-forest uses. Maintaining family forests as forest land is vital to salmon habitat.

# The Solution: House Bill 1095

HB 1095 was passed in May 2003 to revise RMAP regulations and assist small forest landowners in complying with Forests and Fish Rules by:

- Simplifying RMAP reporting requirements.
- Creating the Family Forest Fish Passage Program to provide financial assistance in barrier correction.

6.14.2003

# HB 1095 also defined terms

HB 1095 defined “Small Forest Landowner”:

*You are a small forest landowner if you have harvested no more than an average timber volume of two million board feet per year during the three previous years.*

# Forest Land was defined as:

Land capable of supporting a **merchantable stand of timber and not being actively used for anything incompatible with timber growing.**

## ■ This does not include:

- ◆ residential home sites of up to five acres,
- ◆ crop fields, orchards, vineyards, pastures, feedlots, and fish pens, and
- ◆ the land on which appurtenances necessary to the production, preparation, or sale of crops, fruit, dairy products, fish, and livestock exist; or
- ◆ Christmas tree farms.

# New RMAP Reporting Requirements

- RMAPs are not required on land parcels of **20 acres or less in size**, if the owner owns 80 total acres or less of forestland statewide. Fish blockages must still be addressed.
- Other SFLs receive an educational brochure on road maintenance standards, and must fill out a **“Checklist RMAP”** that confirms they have read the brochure and are applying this guidance toward the maintenance of their forest roads at the time of harvest.

# Family Forest Fish Passage Program

A yellow excavator is shown in a forest setting, lifting a large, dark log. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and green foliage. The excavator's arm and bucket are visible, and the log is being hoisted into the air. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

- DNR, in cooperation with the WDFW and the SRFB, is to establish a program to assist small forest landowners with repairing or removing fish barriers.
- **Two million dollars** have been allocated for the 2003-2005 biennium.

# Worst First

- SFLs are not required to repair fish passage barriers until higher priority barriers on other lands in the watershed have been repaired.
- Priorities for barrier correction will be based on watershed-level assessments.

# What We Need to Know

To prioritize culverts on small forest landowner properties we need to know the locations of:

- Fish passage barriers (e.g., barrier inventories).
- Small forest landowner parcels.

# How Will We Get Barrier Information?

- Existing data – gather and synthesize existing barrier information
- WDFW will assist Lead Entities (LEs) in acquiring the data necessary to fill any gaps in fish barrier information.
- Where additional fish passage barrier inventories are necessary, funding will be sought for the collection of this information.

# How Will We Get Parcel Data?

- From county GIS data and aerial photos (requires funding).
- By reviewing existing barrier inventories and identifying blockages on SFL properties.



# Early Action Strategy

For the first funding cycle, applications will be received in four ways:

- 1) Volunteers
- 2) Forest Practices Applications
- 3) Watershed Priority/Landowner Recruitment
- 4) Checklist RMAPs

# How Does the Program Work?

- A landowner signs up for the cost-share program. The Application requests that the site be evaluated to determine if it is a barrier.

## APPLICATION FOR FISH PASSAGE BARRIER EVALUATION

On May 14, 2003, the Washington State legislature passed a law that created a financial and technical assistance program to aid small forest landowners with fixing fish passage barriers. A fish-passage barrier is any artificial instream structure such as a culvert, dam or road crossing that impedes the free passage of fish. For a summary of this law and a full explanation of the program, please refer to the Family Forest Fish Passage Program manual that has either accompanied this application or is available from the Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO).

If you think you may have an in-stream barrier and are interested in receiving either financial or technical assistance with replacing this barrier, please complete this application and either submit it along with your Forest Practices Application, your Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan Checklist or send directly to the SFLO. When the SFLO receives your application, a field representative will contact you to set up a date for a site visit to determine whether you have a barrier. If it is determined during the site visit that you do not have a barrier, you will no longer be enrolled in the program. If it is determined during the site visit that you do have a barrier, the barrier will be placed on a prioritized list and will be eligible for cost-share funding when the barrier becomes a priority within your watershed and funding becomes available. You may also elect to fix the barrier at your own expense.

☐ I choose to enroll in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program and would like to have my instream structure evaluated for eligibility. I understand that by submitting this initial application for fish passage barrier evaluation, I will be contacted by a field representative who will make a site visit to further evaluate my barrier.

☐ I choose not to enroll in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program and I will be responsible for removing or repairing any artificial fish passage barrier existing on my forest roads at my own expense.

Landowner(s) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner(s) signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description: Section(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ East or West

County Assessor Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

FPA# (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

# Barrier Evaluation

- A DNR or WDFW staff or other approved staff will visit the site and make a barrier determination.

# Collecting Project Information

- An evaluation is completed by the **Fish Passage Team**. They review:
  - ◆ Fish use
  - ◆ Amount of habitat to be opened up
  - ◆ Other barriers in the area
- Lead Entity coordination
- Local agency and tribal staff consulted.
- A surrogate Priority Index will be calculated.

12 18'00

# Site Evaluation

- Will be completed for projects determined to be high priority based on the data review.
- Mapped information is verified and the barrier evaluated for correction options.

# Project List

- The Fish Passage Team will provide DNR with a list of prioritized projects.
- This is based on factors such as fish use, habitat opened, location of other barriers, coordination with other projects, and Lead Entity recommendations.
- This list will be grouped by WRIA.

# Project Funding

- DNR will determine the amount of funding available and select projects based on the project list provided by the Fish Passage Team.
- The goal is to provide funding to correct those fish barriers on SFL properties that cause greatest harm to public resources.
- The list is then presented to the SRFB.

# Project Sponsorship

- Lead Entities and landowners will be notified which projects are funded. **LEs will be asked to help coordinate project sponsors through RFEs, Conservation Districts, etc.**
- The landowner may choose to be the project sponsor.
- IAC will track project funds.

7/23/98

# Project Management

- Projects must meet or exceed state fish passage criteria.
- WDFW will approve final design.
- Landowners will be responsible for long-term maintenance.

# Application Deadlines

- For the Early Action funding cycle, applications are due January 31, 2004. Funding decisions will be made in the spring of 2004, and projects constructed that summer.
- For projects to be funded and constructed in 2005, applications are due July 31, 2004.

# Cost-share Match

Landowners are required to pay the lesser of:

- 1) 25% of costs associated with the removal or replacement of a fish passage barrier; or
- 2) Five thousand dollars.

# Maximum Match Per Calendar Year for Multiple Projects

Average Annual Harvest	Western Washington	Eastern Washington
Less than 500,000 BF	\$8,000	\$2,000
500,000 – 999,999 BF	\$16,000	\$4,000
1,000,000 – 1,499,999 BF	\$24,000	\$12,000
More than 1,500,000 BF	\$32,000	\$16,000

# Program Contact

Small Forest Landowner Office  
Washington Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 47012  
Olympia, WA 98504-7012  
Voice: (360) 902-1400    FAX: (360) 902-1428  
e-mail: [sflo@wadnr.gov](mailto:sflo@wadnr.gov)  
<http://www.dnr.gov/sflo/>

# Program Goals

- Assist family forest landowners in complying with the Forests and Fish law.
- Provide cost-share assistance on high priority barriers

# The Result

